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NEWS LETTER.
NOVEMBER, 1974.

V.U.F.O.R.S. NOW HAS A CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS - MID CITY.

The Society has acquired, for an indefinite period, very attractive meeting premises on the twelfth (12) floor of 100 Collins Street. These rooms will be open to members on the second and fourth Friday nights of every month, commencing the 8th November, followed by the 22nd. There will be someone in attendance from 7.30 p.m. and the Library will be open all the evening.

The Library now contains over four hundred titles of books and magazines on UFO's and related subjects. Due to the high price of books and other publications, the Committee has decided to raise the Library fees to 25¢ for paperback editions and 50¢ for the more expensive recent hard-back publications.

ELECTIONS.

The annual elections for Committee will be held at the Annual Meeting to be held on Friday the 13th December at 8 p.m. in the National Mutual Theatre.

The positions required to be filled are: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and three Committee-men or women.

Nominations for the above positions, signed by the candidate and the proposer, must reach the Secretary by not later than Friday November 29.

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THE PASCAGOULA CASE.

Astronaut James McDivitt interviews witness.

Astronaut James McDivitt, who photographed a U.F.O. from Gemini 4 and reported two other UFO sightings while in space, contacted Charles Hickson, one of the fishermen in the Pascagoula, Mississippi Case, about one month after they reported that they had been taken aboard a U.F.O.

The Astronaut was interviewed on the NBC TV program "Today" on April 12, 1974. He stated that he believed the two fishermen reported a real experience.

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ODD ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Flying Saucers to Become Official?

The U.S. Defense Department will be forced to concede the existence of flying saucers within the next six months, says L.J. Lorenzen, international director of the usually conservative UFO research group, Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation, of Tucson, Arizona. He said he believed President Nixon, the CIA and the Defense Department were undertaking a campaign to "prepare the public for the news that UFOS are real", prompted by considerations that include:

- + Fear that some other nation, possibly France, will soon publicly declare that UFOs exist.
- + Indications that indicate most Americans now believe in flying saucers, and that Government denials lack credibility.
- + New Government evidence that UFOs and their occupants mean no harm to earth.

Lorenzen said these reasons, and fears by the Defense Department that extra-terrestrial beings might stage a dramatic "over act" at any time to prove their existence, has prompted the Department to review the historic stand that UFOs exist only in the mind of eccentrics.

(Orange Daily, 17/7/74).

UFO COVER-UP "DWARFS WATERGATE".

American nuclear physicist Stanton Friedman told a nationwide symposium on flying saucers that there was overwhelming evidence that earth was under observation by creatures from other worlds. The government was pulling a cover-up that "dwarfs Watergate", he said. "There is a galactic federation of creatures who are communicating and they look at us and say: 'A nice place to visit, but I wouldn't want to live there'. They visit here often to grab plant and soil samples, and maybe take humans for breeding stock or specimens".

(Herald, 24/6/74)

STILL UNIDENTIFIED!

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, the scientist who has investigated more UFO reports than any other scientist, says that one fifth of all reported sightings are still unidentified.

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RADAR TRACKS "GHOSTS" IN THE PACIFIC.

Major Dallas van Hoose, spokesman at the US Army's Huntsville, Alabama, missile base, confirmed recently that "some unexplained aerial phenomena" were observed during a tracking exercise. Scientists, many of whom are reluctant to be named in interviews because of general public scepticism over UFOs, say privately they have been unable to find any explanation for the "ghost ships". Huntsville houses the army's ballistic missile defence systems command, which analyses results of missile tests in the Kwajalein atoll region of the Marshall Islands. Last August, The USAF launched a Minuteman intercontinental ballistic missile from Vandenberg AFB aimed for the Kwajalein missile range, which is used by the Army, Air Force and Navy. When the ICBM was screaming towards the Pacific tests site, it began its descent in a normal ballistic trajectory, scientists say. The nose cone had separated from the third stage of the missile and was entering the atmosphere

Radar Tracks "Ghosts" in the Pacific. (cont'd.) from page 2.

6000 metres per second. Radar scanners at Kwajalein and Meck islands were tracking the nosecone routinely. At about 20,000 metres the radar experts in the Pacific found they were also tracking an unidentified flying object next to the ICBM's nose cone. Radar picked up an inverted saucer-shaped object to the right and above the descending nose cone and watched it cross the warhead's trajectory to a point which was below and to the left of it before the phantom ship disappeared. The ghost ship was described as being three metres high and twelve metres long. Two separate radar systems saw it at the same time, which may eliminate the probability that there was a malfunction in one of the radar systems.

It was also reported that three other identical objects were seen in the vicinity - the same size, shape and dimensions. Defence experts took their findings to the Army Missile Intelligence Agency, Army Missile Command, at Redstone, California. One scientist said the data indicated that the phantom ship "flew under its own power", but could not explain what sort of power was involved. So far, none of the experts here believe the ghost ship was a natural phenomenon caused by freak weather conditions or echoes commonly seen on radar screens.

(Warrnambool Standard - 31/7/74.)

SIGHTINGS

UFO's STRIKE FAMILY.

Their nightmare began on September 16, when Mrs. Richards was returning home from Launceston with two of her children, Kathleen (5) and Janine (8).

A few miles from home, the night sky suddenly lit up ahead and the car lost power. The car radio started "playing up" and then all the electrical systems failed. The headlights, dashboard lights and heater all went dead. Mrs. Richards said she tried to start the car but even the motor was dead.

Then strange vibration noises like jets started roaring. "It was as though my head was splitting open. I thought the end of the world had come", she said. Then painful electric shocks flashed through her. They were much worse than shocks from household appliances. She said the vibrations of her body were overwhelming. Her face felt numb. Then she smelt something like a gas - "stronger than household gas".

Kathleen slept through the ordeal, but Janine experienced the same sensations as her mother. They dragged Kathleen from the car and ran two miles to the home of Harvey Chappel who could plainly see Mrs. Richards had been badly frightened.

Mr. Chappel and his brother Derek, drove the Richards back to their car.

The light and the smell had gone. The car started immediately and the radio which had never given trouble before, worked perfectly again. The only unusual thing about the car was that the radiator was empty.

At the time of Mrs. Richards harrowing experience, her husband was at home. He was waiting for her and the children. He looked in the general direction from which she would come and heard what he thought was a car roaring and saw a light shining. The next day they had their car, which was always kept in good condition, checked by a mechanic, he found it to be in perfect working order. Mrs. Richards had been ill since and her arms and fingers, which became swollen, are returning to normal.

(Saturday Evening Mercury - Hobart.)

NERVOUS DUCKSHOOTER WATCHES HOVERING UFO

Robert Nagle, a young married man of Noble Park, has reported to the Society his sighting of a hovering UFO near Lake Colman, about 25 miles from Sale. Mr. Nagle said that he was a keen duck shooter, often going on night shoots by moonlight. On Saturday night, March 23, 1974, he had been shooting in the early part of the night at Lake Wellington, and around midnight he decided to drive to another spot near Lake Colman. He arrived at this spot about one A.M., where he intended to spend the night.

The moon was nearly full and a few clouds were about as he sat on the bonnet of his car for a few minutes idly watching the scene, when he suddenly glimpsed out of the corner of his eye an illuminated object descending from a cloud, moving from the north towards him. Turning to get a better look, he saw it become stationary and hover at a position he estimated to be about a half mile distant and about 100 feet altitude.

He described the object as oval-shaped, and consisting of three "stages", that is, the object appeared to be divided into three horizontal portions, one above the other. The upper two of these "stages" were glowing a "fiery orange", the lower one, or "base", as he called it, being unlit.

By the time the object had reached the hovering position, Mr. Nagle had become a little nervous, and he moved around to watch from behind the boot of his car. Shortly the object began to advance slowly towards him, so he immediately retreated on foot into the paddock behind his car. While the object was advancing, it had become tilted towards him, and he could then clearly see the unlit base by the glow from the other "stages". However, after about two seconds the object stopped advancing, so he decided to return to the car. Entering by a rear door, he retrieved his keys, unlocked the boot and got out his loaded shotgun, and slid into the back seat to watch further developments.

The object was now in the horizontal position as he watched it from the car, and he was surprised to see what he first thought was a "beam of light" coming from the object down to the ground. Not having had his eyes on the object all the time, he had not seen how the "beam" had made its first appearance. The "beam" appeared to him to be of a constant thickness of about 10 feet, while the object itself he thought was 50 to 100 feet wide. The colour of the "beam" was the same orange as the glow of the object. A peculiar feature of the "beam" was that it did not extend from the object to the ground in a straight line, but emerged from ground level almost at 90 degrees, and curved over to enter the lower "stage" at the side. (Mr. Nagle was not right at the lake's edge, and he said that his vision was so obstructed that he could not actually see the bottom of the beam, that is, he was unsure whether the object was over land or water). During the time the "beam" was visible, the object appeared to be "unstable", or rocking slightly; by the time the "beam" had disappeared the object "stabilised" - the rocking ceased. When the "beam" disappeared, it did so by vanishing progressively from the bottom upwards, so that it became shorter and shorter until its end receded into the object.

As soon as the "beam" had disappeared, the bottom section of the object, which up to this time had been unlit, began to glow similarly to the other two. The object tilted to a 30 degree angle, moved up and down four or five times, and started to dim.

By now, the object had been there for about ten minutes, and Mr. Nagle admitted that fear got the better of him; he decided he had seen enough of the strange object, jumped into the driver's seat and, with lights out, drove away across the paddocks, heading for Golden Beach. He did not look back, and saw no more of the object.

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POLICEMAN CONFIRMS POSITIVE SIGHTING

A Dubbo policeman has verified a sighting on June 27 by a young married couple at Mogriguy, 22½ km. north of Dobbo...

Mrs. Catherine Smith, 24, first sighted the UFO as she was helping her husband park a truck on a ramp near their lonely country home at 11 p.m. Still visibly shaken by the experience, she described the UFO this morning as "an incandescent ball, glowing more gold than white, with the light most intense towards the centre and dimming towards the outside edges". Mrs. Smith said that it appeared to be very close at first, just above the trees. It was utterly unnatural, unlike anything she had ever seen before in the night sky. It terrified her and she ran inside, calling to her husband, Kevin, 25. From the house she trained binoculars on the orb of light and saw the illumination was most intense at the centre of a row of seven windows which extended the length of the UFO... Dubbo police were called, and Sen. Const. B. Carroll arrived at Mogriguy with Sen. Const. C. Long. Long reported by radio that the object "looked like one of those sputniks".

(Const. Long's sketch of the UFO showed a roughly oval object with a circular "window" in the centre flanked by three square "windows" on either side)

- The Dubbo Liberal, 28/6/1974

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"SOUP-PLATE" SEEN OVER ADAMINABY

At about 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 29, young Paul Mueller, of "Ashvale", Adaminaby, saw a white object in the middle of the clouds and called to his family to come and see it. It was described by the family as being round, white, and about the size of a "soup-plate" and was high in the sky. The object had several lights flashing, described by Mrs. Mueller as being like torches. Pamela Mueller, Paul's sister, said she saw the object flashing orange and yellow lights, while Paul saw red, green, orange and yellow lights. According to Mrs. Mueller's reckoning, the object would have been about two miles from the house. The Muellers said they all experienced a giddy sensation while the object was stationary, and felt tight in the stomach, as if a belt was being tightened about them. Pamela Mueller said the family was frightened by what they saw, Mrs. Mueller adding that the sky seemed darker when the object was visible. After about five minutes, the object moved slowly off towards Adaminaby.

- The Cooma-Monaro Express, 2/7/1974.

WHAT'S UP?

Hey, UFO up there....There's a group of flying saucer spotters in England, we're told, going by the name of the Wessex Association for the Study of Unexplained Phenomena. They call themselves WATSUP for short.

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ADVENTURE WITH AN INCREDIBLE BALLOON

The strange story of three girls and a balloon was told in two articles in the Wollongong Mercury, 29 and 30 July, 1974...

Three teenage girls became hysterical when an unidentified flying object "as big as a house" hovered about 30 feet above them near Camden at the weekend... Sydney Airport also tracked the object on radar from Camden towards Sydney before it headed north and disappeared...

One of the girls, Sheryl Connolly, 15, yesterday described the object's "attack" on Gabrielle Martin, 14, of Cartwright; Roslyn Grimes, 16, of Mortdale, and herself in a paddock in Deepfield Rd., Catherine Field, 7 miles north of Camden. "It came over the trees in the south, making a kind of humming noise with a whistle", she said. "We were tending our horses at the bottom of the paddock, but we ran like mad when it stopped above us". She said the object was steel-coloured and about the size of a house, with whirling white lights underneath. "Suddenly it dropped, and Roslyn and Gabrielle, who were directly beneath it, started screaming", Sheryl said. "Roslyn tripped over, and the thing stopped only a few feet above her before rising again". She said the object covered the ground with a 50 foot circle of shimmering light as it swept over the paddock, across Deepwater Rd., and high above a chicken farm.

Mr. K. Numan, who owns the paddock, said the girls ran screaming into his house and barred all doors and windows. "They were absolutely petrified", he said. "They stacked tables and chairs against all the doors and took knives from the kitchen. One of the girls was in such an hysterical state she accidentally cut her shoulder with the knife"...

Constable J. Walshe, of Camden police, who investigated the incident, said he had believed the girls' story. "You only had to look at them to see they had not made it up. They were in a state of shock"... "I interviewed neighbours who said they also heard the noise... I have no reason to disbelieve their story and expect a report from the RAAF after an investigation has been completed".

And the explanation is given in the July 30 article:

RAAF Penrith Operational Command Base Commanding Officer, Squadron Leader J. Hickey, yesterday said a large balloon was being tracked from Sydney Airport when it "disappeared" from the radar screen about 8.05 p.m. on Friday. He said the balloon lost height over Camden, but rose again soon afterwards.

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LIGHT FOLLOWING CAR AFFECTS MOTOR

A representative of the RAAF is investigating a reported sighting of a UFO on Monday night (July 29) north of Wellington. A young Wellington couple, 20 year old Ray Stockings and 16-year old Cheryl Bennison, told Wellington police they were coming into Wellington from the Molong Road when they sighted the flashing object about a mile in the sky on the driver's side of the vehicle. At this stage they were 6 miles from Wellington, and as they travelled into town the object followed them.

"We were more shocked than frightened", Ray said this morning after being interviewed by Flt. Lt. I. Thomas, of Dubbo. "It was 9.20 p.m. and what appeared to be a star came down outside the car and proceeded to come back into town with us. At one stage it got in front of us but fell back to its original position. When we came into the 80 km. boundaries and slowed down, the UFO slowed to our pace. And then as we came into the built up area past the market gardens it became brighter and disappeared. This was the only time I was concerned, as I wondered where it had got to. The light, which shone brightly, was more than half the size of the moon".

An insurance clerk, Ray said the object came nearer them at times, and when it did so, the motor of the car nearly cut out. Later in the night the gear box of the car collapsed.

- Wellington Times, NSW, 31/7/1974

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TWO SEE UFO ON EAST COAST

...Two Scamander (Tas) men watched the object in the night sky for 20 minutes, from 10.20 p.m., before contacting TUFIOC's sighting officer (Mr. Bennetto). They said the object flashed Green, pink, pale yellow and blue lights. It was about a quarter of a mile offshore and moving slowly towards Fal-mouth. They said the object was bigger and much brighter than any of the stars in last night's clear sky. The planet Jupiter would be clearly visible from Scamander, Mr. Bennetto said, but the men were emphatic it was not a heavenly body they were watching. According to the D.C.A. there were no planes in the area. The majority of UFO sightings this year have been in the northern part of the state and TUFIOC has 20 unexplained ones so far. There was a spate of sightings near the Gladstone area - some by police. Hunters told TUFIOC of instances of being trailed by low flying UFOs, and other witnesses spoke of frightening experiences when well-lit UFOs paced their cars. In one instance, a man drove through a closed farm gate to get away from an object, and in another a police sergeant, who picked up a UFO as an escort about 4 a.m. one day, almost drove off the road in surprise...

- Saturday Evening Mercury, 31/8/1974

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UFO SIGHTED BY A LOCAL FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Herb Slater (of New Norfolk, Tas) and their son, John, were driving near Antill Ponds when John saw a number of lights in the sky. (Fri., Sep. 7) The family stopped their car and got out to watch. The UFO came down through cloud. It appeared to have a cigar-shaped body. It had a green light at one end and a white one at the other. Red lights were on either side of the body. It hovered, and then moved slowly up and down, and was watched by the Slater family for about 6 minutes. Eventually it rose higher, and disappeared in the cloud as it appeared to head towards Oatlands. John Slater said the lights on the UFO were very bright, and illuminated the cloud layer. The family heard an odd noise which they described as "a slight hum, or a whirring noise", just before the UFO moved off...

- Derwent Valley Gazette, 11/9/1974

NO PANIC

M. Robert Galley, French Minister of Defence, in a radio programme on Feb. 21 this year, entitled "Pas de Panique" (No Panic); publicly admitted the existence of unidentified flying objects, stating, "...because we do not understand the UFO phenomenon, this gives us no reason for denying its reality".

MYSTERY HOLES IN THE GROUND

A circular depression about two metres in diameter and 30 cm. deep was discovered by Mr. George Nauschutz in a cultivated paddock on his grain farm at Jandowae, 150 Km. west of Toowoomba. Another five circular holes from 15 to 10 cm. in diameter plunge into the ground from the base of the depression. Const. N. W. Beikoff, of Jandowae, said he had examined the depression and holes, which had a grey stain on the inside which was not comparable with soil in the district. Samples had been taken and a soil conservationist could offer no explanation. Const. Beikoff said the holes in the ground were almost perfectly circular. An odd fact was that they changed direction under the ground. "There may be a simple explanation or perhaps it may never be explained", he said.

Mrs. Nauschutz said yesterday a crop had been harvested and the ground had been ploughed recently. The holes in the ground were as neat as if they had been bored, but there was no dirt in sight from drilling.

- Warwick Daily News, 1/8/1974

MELBOURNE ARTIST CHECKS UP ON VON DANIKEN

Lorraine White, member of the art department at Melbourne's Emily McPherson College, visited Peru and Ecuador in March this year to try and check some of the claims made by author Erich von Daniken in his recent book, "Gold of the Gods". In his book, von Daniken claimed that in Ecuador he met Juan Moricz, an Argentinian ethnologist living there, and at Moricz's invitation, he explored "a gigantic system of tunnels, thousands of miles in length, and built by unknown constructors at some unknown date". According to von Daniken, he examined in one of these caverns a fantastic collection of solid gold artifacts, and a library of metal plaques with indecipherable inscriptions, which he believed conveyed the true history of man's origin.

In an article in the Melbourne Herald (8/9/1974), Miss White, who is interested in archaeology and comparative studies of ancient art forms, said, "I attended von Daniken's lectures in Melbourne last year, where he claimed to have found 'new evidence' for his theories, mainly in Ecuador. He showed a fantastic head he had been allowed photograph, which appeared to have a space helmet and transmitters. Its aesthetic content was so far in advance of any of the major civilisations that I felt I had to find out more about these people. I was looking at it from an artistic point of view".

Miss White succeeded in gaining an introduction to Moricz, and she relates: "Juan Moricz talked to me privately for two or three hours and said that von Daniken had never entered those caves. But Moricz claims that the metal library does exist. It is ideographic on fine metal and contains incredible information. He's a very unassuming, quiet man and yet he says his discoveries, which he will reveal in due course, will revolutionise all mankind's knowledge of his own origins".

Miss White next visited Peru, where she was keen to see the strange formations on the Nazca plain. She managed to get herself a light aircraft trip to view the so-called "runways". For "the best \$40 of my life", she flew for two hours over every single marking. "The thing that shocked me somehow was to see the drawings of three astronauts on the mountainside - the helmets, the sunrises - somehow I couldn't get that out of my mind".

HER AIM IS TO CONTACT A UFO

Legana housewife Mrs. Ursula Curran wants to make contact with an unidentified flying object.

"I am quite convinced that earth is not the only planet with life on it", Mrs. Curran said yesterday. "My big yen would be to make contact with one of those things", she said. "I'm not afraid of them".

Mrs. Curran said that she and her husband, Jeff, early yesterday morning watched a UFO at close range for more than two minutes in the Launceston suburb of Riverside. Mrs. Curran had just picked her husband up from work at Launceston about 2 a.m. when they first saw the UFO. She said the object hovered over a power station at Riverside and then gradually moved towards her car. Mrs. Curran stopped the car as it approached, and when it was directly above her she noticed it was triangular shaped with round edges. She said she got out of the car and watched as the craft accelerated and headed south towards West Launceston.

"It seemed to have two retractable skids about two metres long running just behind the two white underside lights", she said. "They were hard up under the body and could have been a type of landing platform".

She said the object emitted a powerful pulsating noise as it disappeared.

Mrs. Curran has made several UFO sightings in New Zealand.

- Hobart Mercury, 30/9/1974.

IT LANDED ON MT. WARRENHEIP

An unidentified flying object landed on the top of Mt. Warrenheip about 8.15 last night. This is the unshakeable conviction of three independent sources who contacted The Courier last night...

...All related the same story. They saw a cigar-shaped object, with flashing green lights, travelling at a slow speed at a low altitude. They saw the flashing lights become static and the object slowly descend until it appeared to land on the summit of the mountain. It stayed there for some minutes, slowly rose into the air, and then travelled off at a tremendous speed. A Courier reporter was on top of the mountain within an hour of the reported sightings. He could not find any tracks or signs of a disturbance.

- Ballarat Courier, 3/6/1974.

UFO ILLUMINATES FISHING BOAT

Bowen fisherman Doug Nicolson has sent the following note to his mother concerning a strange experience:

Saw my first UFO in the night run between Cape Upstart and Cape Bowling Green. Beautiful thing, came right over me then turned off. When first sighted it was coming straight towards me from dead ahead, beautifully lit all the time, but with a flashing blue and white light like a camera flash bulb only much larger. When it was overhead this flash lit my boat up so I could see everything on deck and even the planking on the side and after decks. Not only that, but it lit the water up with its flashes so that I could see the waves and ripples over a large area. I jumped out of the top hatch and made gestures to try and beckon it down low, but got no response. It then turned and flew towards Upstart Bay. I timed it, and had it for 10 minutes. It was no aeroplane because it was flying too low, and for one thing it carried no navigation lights as aircraft do; too brilliantly lit for another and such bright flashing lights as I've only seen with flash cameras. Anyway, the whole thing was too beautiful to be an aircraft; it did not affect my compass as some people claim.

- Bowen Independent, 13/6/1974.